

NID 84-018 JX

4/03/84

PAKISTAN: Election Plans

President Zia recently told [REDACTED] that he will hold non-party elections for a National Assembly and Senate that would jointly elect a president, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A Pakistani paper has quoted Zia as threatening to hold a referendum if the political parties unite against the plan. [REDACTED]

Comment: Zia probably is encouraged by a recent secret national survey that concluded the public will accept nonparty elections. Zia hopes to create a civilian legislature that will elect him president next spring. At the same time, Zia's quoted remark suggests he will postpone the election if the outcome is in doubt and will place the blame on his opponents. [REDACTED]